

Safe Routes to Schools - Safety Art Logistics

Grade level: 3 through 5 (can be modified to accommodate younger/older students)

Introduction: This discussion and art activity will prepare students for International Walk to School Day.

Objective: In this lesson students will review the *4 Fantastic Reasons to Walk & Ride*, and make signs and banners to improve visibility on International Walk to School Day.

Supplies:

- **Poster board / Butcher Paper** - At least one poster per pair of kids
- **Pencils** – For students to make outlines (at least one per pair of students)
- **Sharpie Markers** – For teachers to do outlines
- **Tempra / Poster Paint** - Make sure you have at least 5 colors that are both dark & light. You may need to water down the paint. Add water a little at a time while mixing, as too much water makes the posters run & they never dry.
- **Paper Bowls** - Put small amounts of paint into the paper bowls, and refill as necessary so as not to waste any paint.
- **Brushes** - One brush per student; should be thoroughly rinsed after use.
- **Tarps or drop cloths** – To protect surfaces
- **Cones &/or bags of gravel** – To hold down tarp / drying signs on a windy day
- **Rags** – Don't forget these; they are very useful to have around.

Setting Up:

- Ideally you should suggest a large outdoor area, away from the spots where youth play during recess. As well, make sure you find a spot where banners and signs can dry.
- Place tarps under all banners or signs.
- It is polite to contact the custodian and let them know the routine; there have been some custodians that are not happy about the paint. Most likely you can ask them for a large bucket of water where brushes can be stored and washed between classes.
- You should aim to place a lot of paint containers with small amounts of paint, so that there is about one container of paint per three students. Spread them around the banner or signs in a design, so youth do not have to reach around each other and knock things down.

Volunteers and Staff:

- You can request from the teacher, some volunteer youth to help you wash the brushes.
- If you have volunteer parents, put one parent in charge of keeping an eye on the paints and filling them up.

- Assign another parent on spill or chaos control. They should be ready to escort a child to the bathroom if they get paint on their clothes or to mop up a puddle of spilled paint.
- A third volunteer can check on drying posters and stack them up neatly when they are dry.
- If there are enough eyes on the youth, a Safe Routes staff should spend the extra time and energy to stencil out more signs and banners.

Making Signs:

- Safety Art works best with strategy. When making signs and banners, have team leaders place orders so that they can have banners that say what they need. This preplanning makes it easier on the brain when trying to think about what to write on banners.
 - It is best to figure out how many youth you will be working with at a time and what age. If you are working with buddies, be clear with the older youth about what they're responsibilities are: reminding their buddies to stay in the line and keep the paint on paper.
 - To save time, bubble letter out the safety signs with mottos ahead of time.
 - You can make banners ahead of time as well, and at some schools, butcher paper from the office supply room is used. If you have enough volunteers, you can trace out banners in between classes.
- * You may want to let the students or classes sign the banners that they created.

Giving Clear Instructions for Painting:

- Remind youth to not mix paintbrushes into different colors.
- Encourage them to stay in the lines and use their creativity by outlining and using polka dots and other designs within the boundaries of the letters.
- If youth start messing around with the paint, because they think they are finished, point out specific spots and letters they can work on.

Cleaning Up:

- Ask the janitor if there is an industrial sink that you can wash out the brushes and paints. Before you wash out all the brushes, you should soak them in water
- Leave drying banners and signs at the school for the team leaders and students.

Sample Mottos: (*Ask the kids for ideas)

Less Traffic
 More Exercise
 Carbon Dioxide Free
 Global warming (with a cross through it)
 It's Healthy
 Less Pollution
 I Like to Walk
 Fill the bike racks, not the gas tanks

Slow Down
 I am Healthy
 This is Fun
 I Meet my Neighbors.
 Keep the air clean
 Pollution Solution
 Car Free Kid
 Burn calories, not fuel